

CHRISTIAN REFORMED  
CHURCH

OF ROCHESTER

1877



1952







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OF ROCHESTER

❧ 1877-1952 ❧

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*This Book has been printed to Commemorate  
Seventy-five Years of Blessings,  
Inspiration and Service*

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ROCHESTER, NEW YORK • 1952

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## *Blessings Through the Years*



"Then they that feared Jehovah spake one with another; and Jehovah hearkened, and heard, and a book of remembrance was written before him, for them that feared Jehovah, and that thought upon his name." Malachi 3:16.

**I**n the days of Malachi Israel was experiencing God's judgements because they had turned aside from God's ordinances. But instead of repenting of their sins, they complained against God, saying that it did not pay to serve the Lord. But in those days there were also those who were godly. Instead of complaining about God's judgements they acknowledged the justice of those judgements, and saw even in them, as well as in many Divine blessings, God's mercy and goodness. They acknowledged that the way in which the Lord led them through prosperity and adversity was an earthly pilgrimage toward the last great day in which Jehovah would abundantly reward the righteous and would punish the wicked. Having such a view of life they were able to see and to recount the Lord's manifold blessings. And so those who feared Jehovah spoke one with another about these many blessings.

The passage quoted above tells us of Jehovah's reaction to the godly spirit of those who humbly acknowledged God's goodness. We are told that He heard their godly conversation and caused a book of remembrance to be written before Him, for those who feared Him and thought upon His name. That book of remembrance was a book in which God caused to be recorded the godly attitude of heart and the godly deeds of the faithful. He caused these things to be recorded so that He might be sure to remember to reward them in the end for their faithfulness. That godliness which He would reward was displayed especially in the spirit of

thankfulness and gratitude. Those who gratefully remembered Him He would inscribe in His book of remembrance. Yea, blessed are they whose names are written in Jehovah's and in the Lamb's book of remembrance. They shall behold the glory of the new Jerusalem which cometh down from God out of heaven.

When God's people call to mind God's mercies He writes it in His book of remembrance. That God's people do that, is the necessary evidence of their godliness. It is then a characteristic of the righteous that they see God's goodness and faithfulness in all His ways and testify thereof. They come to understand the mercy of the Lord both from His Word and from His providences. From His Word they come to know the richness of His purposes of mercy toward His own. And in His providences they see day by day the realization of those glorious purposes. It is true that sometimes the darker days come in the lives of God's children. Then they that sit in the seat of the scornful raise their questions about the profit of godliness. But with the eye of faith the righteous see in it all the hand of God working out His merciful purposes toward His people.

Especially at a time such as this it is necessary for us to call to remembrance God's mercies and blessings. We have completed the seventy-fifth year of our history. Just seventy-five years ago a small band of men and women with a love for and a devotion to God's truth, His church and His Kingdom united themselves together before God as a new congregation of Christ's church. They did so in order that their love for and devotion to that truth might come to its fullest expression. By God's grace, for seventy-five years there has been a constant witness to that truth and countless sons and daughters have been born into God's Kingdom. Though the pressure of the kingdom of falsehood upon its gates has been constant, this citadel of truth has stood. There have been struggles and trials, countless heartaches and again seasons of refreshing, ups and downs. But through it all the Lord has led and tenderly nurtured the vine which He planted. Let all praise to His Name be given. Let us count our many blessings, and though we can not possibly name them one by one, let us speak together of the mercy and the faithfulness of our God.

And now as we complete the seventy-fifth year of our congregational existence we may offer our thanksgiving for another signal blessing, namely that we have been enabled to complete and to commence to use a new house of worship. We acknowledge this to be God's provision in a real need. The reception of this blessing, at the conclusion of this seventy-five year period, so filled with blessings, moves us to exclaim: "Our cup runneth over."



This booklet has been prepared in order that it might aid us as a congregation better to remember God's blessings on this very significant occasion. It has been prepared as a souvenir both of our seventy-fifth anniversary and of the dedication of our new house of worship. But let us look at it primarily as another means to enable us to call to remembrance the blessings we have received. Let it be for us a book of remembrance written before God so that we may not forget to be thankful for the outstanding blessings which He has given us.

### The Consistory



#### THE CONSISTORY - 1952

Sitting: A. Spyker, H. J. Schouten, Rev. A. E. Rozendal, C. W. DeJager, F. Steensma, P. Bruinsma. Standing: Wm. T. Mead, G. Vonhof, B. Nordseth, H. J. Frelief.

## *Our Places of Worship*

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The first Church building erected by the Rochester congregation was located at 55 Chatham Street. It was built in 1880 and formally dedicated on June 27, 1880. This building filled the needs of the congregation until 1904 when property was purchased on the corner of North Goodman Street and Pennsylvania Avenue (now Ferndale Crescent). A new Church building was erected on this site and formally dedicated on January 17, 1906.

About 1940 the congregation felt the need for a larger Church building, in a new section. After an extensive fund-raising program and the purchase of new building lots, a building project was started late in 1950 and the present house of worship was dedicated with formal services on November 30, 1951.



Chatham Street - 1880



North Goodman Street - 1906



Browncroft Boulevard - 1951

## *Our Former Pastors*



Rev. H. Tempel  
1881-1883



Rev. J. Riemersma  
1884-1890



Rev. J. M. Remein  
1891-1903



Rev. A. J. Vanden Heuvel  
1904-1907



Rev. L. J. Lamberts  
1909-1914



Rev. H. Bel  
1914-1918



Rev. J. J. Hiemenga  
1918-1919



Rev. P. Yff  
1919-1924



Rev. A. J. Rus  
1924-1930



Rev. H. J. Triezenberg  
1930-1938



Dr. O. Holtrop  
1939-1947



Rev. A. E. Rozendal and family  
1948-1952

# History of the Congregation

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*The following is a free translation of an account found at the beginning of the minutes of the Consistory, outlining the events leading up to the organization of the Church.*

A short summary of the origin, beginning, and growth of "der Ware Hollandsche Gereformeerde Gemeente te Rochester, N. Y., Noord America."

## PREAMBLE 1867 - 1877

During the year 1867, Rev. Wilhelmus H. Van Leeuwen of Paterson, N. J., was invited by Mr. Hendrik De Jongh and others interested, to come to Rochester and preach, which he willingly accepted. Most of those interested were members or former members of the Dutch Reformed Church who were dissatisfied due to its Spiritual decline and permitting membership in secret societies. It was the earnest desire of this group, Frisians and Zeelanders, to organize as a congregation, holding fast to the teachings of their fathers, based upon the Acts of the Synod of Dort, 1618-1619.

Efforts toward this end were made at different times. Various pastors were invited and preached for the group, among these Rev. Douwe J. Vander Werp, Rev. Leendert Rietdyk and Rev. Jacob Noordewier.

It was after the visit of Rev. Noordewier in the late summer of 1876 (nine years later), that a keener interest became evident. Membership in the group increased from time to time. In the spring of 1877, the unorganized group rented a meeting place, located at the corner of Davis and North Streets, over a blacksmith shop. They invited Rev. L. Rietdyk of Paterson, N. J., to pay another visit and acquaint himself with the conditions and needs of the group. This invitation was accepted and, during his brief stay, he was favorably impressed by the group in Rochester. As Rev. Rietdyk was delegated to Synod, held in Chicago on June

third and following days, a request to organize as a congregation of "der Ware Hollandsche Gereformeerde Kerk" was given to Rev. Rietdyk, to be submitted to the Synod. This request received favorable action by that Honorable Body and the Rev. Koenraad Vanden Bosch and Rev. Rietdyk were appointed as the Organizing Committee.

A fraternal letter was received from Rev. Rietdyk asking that the time of organization be deferred until the fall, whereupon the members of the group were requested to meet on June 10, 1877, to consider this matter. This meeting was

held at the appointed time. After prayer for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the matter was discussed at some length and it was unanimously decided to ask Rev. Rietdyk not to postpone the matter of organization, as that would not be for the Spiritual welfare and up-building of the group. Mr. H. De Jongh was requested to submit this decision to Rev. Rietdyk by letter and to ask, in the name of the entire group, that this be taken care of at the earliest possible date. A reply was received shortly afterwards stating that, the Lord willing, he expected to come to Rochester on August 24 or 25 to make preliminary arrangements. Rev. K. Vanden Bosch would arrive later and that on August 28 they, as a Committee, would organize the group as a congregation.

Rev. Vanden Bosch advised the group that he was unable to serve on the Committee at this time owing to illness in his family. This left all the work to Rev. Rietdyk. While ardently performing his duties, he received a telegram to come home at once on account of the sudden illness of his youngest child, who, however, passed away before his arrival. These sad happenings caused a further delay until September 13, 1877, when we were organized as "der Ware Hollandsche Gereformeerde Gemeente" (True Dutch Reformed Church).

Rev. Vanden Bosch was still unable to be present, consequently only Rev. Rietdyk officiated at the organization rites. The new congregation consisted of seventeen members (names not given).\* Brothers H. De Jongh and Harman J. Piek were



A. Van Wyckhuyse - Deacon

chosen as Elders and Abram Van Wyckhuyse as Deacon. They were solemnly installed the following Lord's Day by Rev. Rietdyk. Preparatory services, based on I Peter 2:7, had been held the previous Friday, for the celebration of the Lord's Supper at this time, Sunday, September 16, 1877. Rev. Rietdyk chose for his text Ephesians 2:14a - "for He is our Peace." The sermon in the afternoon was based on Romans 8:1. The sacrament of Baptism was administered to eleven children during this service. This memorable day closed with an evening service, in which the new-born congregation was admonished with zeal and fervor to "keep themselves in the love of God," based on Jude's letter, verse 21.

The services of Rev. Rietdyk were greatly appreciated and the sacred ties of fellowship laid will long be lovingly remembered by all of us.

(signed)      H. De Jongh    Elders  
                      H. J. Piek  
                      A. Van Wyckhuyse    Deacon

(\*In addition to the three Church Officers listed above, it has been learned that Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Denning were also Charter Members of the new congregation. Further, that one of our present members - Mrs. Claude DeJager (nee Cornelia C. Denning) - was one of the eleven children who received the sacrament of Baptism, administered by Rev. L. Rietdyk, at the first Sunday service of the newly organized Church.)



*The following historical account is based, for the most part, upon the Consistorial records and gathered by the Church Historian, Mr. Conrad J. Bult.*

The first Consistory meeting of the newly organized congregation was held on September 18, 1877. The Treasurer of the unorganized group, Mr. Christian Boeyink, reported a cash balance of \$1.36, which was turned over to the Consistory. Two days later, September 20, a decision was made to begin Catechetical instruction, also to endeavor to organize a Sunday School.

The first quarterly financial report was rendered on January 8, 1878, by Treasurer Van Wyckhuyse, as follows:

General Fund:	Receipts	\$41.85
	Disbursements	33.40
	Balance	8.45



Deacon Fund:	Receipts	\$7.28
	No Disbursements	

On September 2, 1878, several members of the congregation met with the Consistory to consider which ministers should be asked to labor here temporarily; also to render advice as to whether a minister should be called to serve the congregation or to first obtain a House of Worship. At a congregational meeting held on November 5, 1878, with Rev. Rietdyk and the Consistory presiding, it was decided to obtain a House of Worship before calling a Pastor.

As an indication of the growth of the congregation, the following Lord's Day four new members were received and seven children baptized.

The records for March 31, 1879, reveal the information that Rev. Willem Greve was delegated by Classis to spend two weeks in our midst, also to officiate as Church Visitor. Under dates of June 20 and October 6, 1879, the Rev. Greve was extended calls to become our minister, but both were declined.

The Rev. J. Noordewier presided at a special congregational meeting on May 14, 1879. Decision was made that this was the proper time to call a minister and then to look for a suitable location and church building. Permission was received from Classis Hudson to call on the basis of an annual salary of \$500 and free housing.

At a congregational meeting on January 12, 1880, it was decided to purchase a house and lot at 55 Chatham Street, for the amount of \$1,100. At this same meeting a Board of Trustees, with five members, and two Tellers were elected. This procedure was necessary in order to comply with the legal requirements as established by the City of Rochester. The Trustees elected were:

Jan De Wolff, President  
 Hendrik De Jongh, Secretary  
 Christian Boeyink  
 John H. Zonneville  
 Harman J. Piek

The Tellers elected were: Jacobus De Witte and Abram Jansen. The congregation also decided to submit a petition to the City authorities requesting a change in name from "der Ware Hollandsche Gereformeerde Gemeente," to "The True Dutch Reformed Church."

At an historical congregational meeting on January 24, 1880, it was decided to erect a new church building on the lot at 55 Chatham Street. It is regrettable that no details are available as

to cost or construction but the new building was dedicated on June 27, 1880. A local newspaper, the "Rochester Morning Herald," carried items about the dedication of the new church building, as follows:

News item - June 24, 1880

#### A NEW CHURCH

The dedication of the new church (True Dutch Reformed) on Chatham Street, will occur next Sunday. Services will be conducted by the Rev. Mr. De Baun, of Hackensack, N. J. Preaching in the morning, in the Dutch language, commencing at 9 o'clock, and in the afternoon, in the English, at 3 o'clock. A collection will be taken to assist the members in meeting their incurred expenses. A cordial invitation is extended to all who desire to be present.

Letter - no signature - June 24, 1880

#### TRUE DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH

To the Editor of the Morning Herald:

A short time ago a notice appeared in your paper of the building of a new church by the True Dutch Reformed congregation. The edifice is now completed and its dedication will take place next Sunday. The services will be conducted by the Rev. Mr. De Baun of Hackensack, N. J. The members, whose number is quite small as yet, have been untiring in their efforts to complete the building and deserve congratulations for their success; but as they are not rich in this world's goods, it will not seem strange or out of place, I think, that they should invite any society or individual interested in the spread of the gospel at home, as well as abroad, to contribute a little toward meeting the expenses of its erection. In a city of as many costly churches and wealthy congregations there must certainly be the means, and let us hope the desire, to aid the little circle of Hollanders whose only fault, if it be considered such, is their strict and undisguised adherence to the old Calvinistic doctrines of Presbyterianism. Any one who sees the edifice on Chatham Street will notice by its small, though neat appearance, that they have counted the cost before building, and have been as economical as possible in their undertaking.

News item - Monday, June 28, 1880

#### CHURCH DEDICATION Free Dutch Reformed Church

The new Free Dutch Reformed Church on Chatham Street was dedicated yesterday. In the morning, the Rev. Mr. De Baun of Hackensack preached on "The House of God," taking as the basis of his discourse the account of the dedication of Solomon's Temple. In the afternoon, the sermon referred to the "People of God" and was from the words "being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

During the Christmas and New Year's holiday season of 1880-1881, student Hermanus Tempel conducted services and preached on ten occasions. At the congregational meeting of June 28, 1881, candidate H. Tempel was unanimously called to serve as pastor of the Church. The call was accepted and installation of candidate H. Tempel, as Rochester's first minister, took place on September 11, 1881, with Rev. L. Rietdyk officiating. The inaugural sermon was based on I Corinthians 1:23.

On August 16, 1883, Rev. Tempel and Elder H. J. Piek were appointed as a Committee to organize a congregation at Clymer, N. Y. (This congregation later became affiliated with the Dutch Reformed Church).

After ministering faithfully for two years, Rev. H. Tempel, in October, 1883, received a call from the church at Lansing, Illinois, which he accepted.

Following two unsuccessful attempts to obtain a new minister, a call was extended to Rev. Jan Riemersma, in July, 1884. The call was accepted on August 4 and installation took place on October 13, 1884. Rev. Riemersma was called at a yearly salary of \$600 plus an allowance of \$2.50 per week for house rent, in the event he married.

In April, 1890, Rev. Riemersma received, and accepted, a call to Zeeland, Michigan.

After extending three calls, all unsuccessful, a call was sent, on February 6, 1891, to the Rev. Johannes M. Remein of Oostzaan, Holland (The Netherlands).

(translated from the original letter, written in the Holland language)

Rochester, Feb. 6, '91.

To the right Honored Sir  
Rev. J. M. Remein  
at Oostzaan  
Neth.

Beloved Brother:-

Salutation and Peace!

The Holl. Chr. Ref. Congregation here in Rochester, being vacant, has again been busy to obtain a Shepherd and Minister of its own, with the hope that ere long this vacancy may be filled.

To that end the Consistory of the Congregation has presented once and again, the following trio of Ministers, namely - Revs. J. M. Remein, E. Kropveld and T. M. Van den Bosch.

This evening the Congregation gathered, and after the preaching of the Word, based on Psalm 123:1,2, by our Counselor, the male

members remained, and after seeking the face of the Lord, we proceeded to ballot.

The result proved that all the votes but two had been cast for your Honor. We, therefore, come to you with the prayer

Come over and help us!

We are calling your Honor to labor among us as Shepherd and to minister to the spiritual needs of the Congregation, as a faithful servant of the Lord of the Vineyard should want to do, such as: the preaching of the Word, administering of the Sacraments, House Visitation, visiting the sick, Catechetical instruction and such further needs as our Congregation in America may require.

All this to be done according to the three forms of Unity, Church Order of Dordrecht, and the general agreement of the Holl. Chr. Ref. Church in America.

This call is extended with the understanding that if, and when, your Honor shall come in our midst, and receive a call to labor elsewhere, within the time of three years, and the call is accepted, the calling Church refund us one-half the entire cost of your coming to Rochester from the Netherlands.

We promise you a yearly salary of \$600.00 (say six hundred dollars) besides a weekly allowance of \$2.50 for house rent, as the Congregation has no parsonage of its own.

And now our prayer is that the Lord may crown this call with His blessing, that He may grant you the needed light and guidance in an abundant measure that you may be able to make a choice acceptable to God, to the Glory of His Name, the spiritual well-being of the Congregation, and your heartfelt satisfaction.

That you may richly receive the Lord's blessing in all this, is the sincere and hearty prayer of the entire Congregation.

Your Brothers in Christ

(signed)

Elders

K. Wiersma

H. J. Piek

A. Jansen

Deacons

C. Rotmans

W. Kouwe

J. Koppelle

E. VandenBerge,  
Counselor

Rev. Remein accepted the call extended to him and arrived in Rochester, with his family, in June, 1891.

At the suggestion of the Rochester Church, Classis Hudson designated October 29, 1899, as a Day of Prayer, for our fellow believers in the Transvaal, who were at war with England.

The membership of the congregation had steadily increased with the result that the present building became too small. In

July 1893 it was decided to sell the Church building. The sale was completed in November, 1904, for the sum of \$4,250. The following month, December, 1904, lots for a new building were purchased at North Goodman Street and Pennsylvania Avenue (now Ferndale Crescent).

On July 4, 1903, after a long illness, the Rev. J. M. Remein passed away. It was a staggering blow to the congregation.

After two unsuccessful attempts to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Rev. J. M. Remein, a call was extended to Rev. Arie J. Vanden Heuvel. This call was accepted and Rev. Vanden Heuvel became pastor of the Rochester congregation on August 22, 1904. It is interesting to note that the inaugural sermon was printed and sold to members of the congregation at ten cents per copy.

During the construction of the new church building, services were held in the Spencer-Ripley Methodist Church, located at North Goodman and Ripley Streets. (This church is now the Bethel Full Gospel Church).



**YOUNG LADIES' SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS - 1898**

First row: Carrie Leis (Mrs. Jongsma), Gertie Kuipers (Mrs. A. Vonhof, Sr.)  
 Second row: Nellie Hubregsen (Mrs. R. DeJager), Francis Orlebeke (Mrs. N. Bowman), John S. Balt, Miss Nellie VandenBergh, Miss Kato VandenBergh.  
 Third row: Mina Pieters (Mrs. VanderMolen), Mina Kragt (Mrs. L. Quant)  
 Nellie Pieters (Mrs. VandenBout).

The new home of the Rochester congregation was dedicated on January 17, 1906. A news report of the dedication follows:

#### CHURCH IS COMPLETED

Christian Reformed on North Goodman Street  
To Be Dedicated Tonight

The Christian Reformed Church has just been completed on North Goodman Street and this evening it will be dedicated with fitting ceremonies. The Reformed Church was for several years on Chatham Street and has a record of 28 years of existence. The congregation is made up of Hollanders.

The feature of the dedicatory services will be addresses delivered by clergymen from a distance who are prominent in the denomination. An organ prelude by Richard Van Den Heuvel will open the order of service. A word of welcome will be extended by the pastor, Rev. A. J. Van Den Heuvel. Prayer will be offered by Rev. H. Beets of Grand Rapids, Mich. The pastor will make a short address, speaking from the text, "The plummet in the hands of Zerubbabel." Rev. D. Van Der Ploeg of Passaic, N. J., will speak from the words, "God's Remembrance of His People." Rev. H. Beets of Grand Rapids will talk on "What the Christian Thinks About the House of God." Rev. L. Dykstra of this city will speak upon "Denominational Comity and Brotherhood and Its Influence for Good Upon Church Membership and the Unchurched Masses."

Other speakers and their subjects are: Rev. J. Trompen of Ramsey, N. J., "The Relation Between the Visible Structure and the Invisible Life"; Rev. J. Lamar, Rochester, "What the Church Stands For"; Rev. P. Van Vlaanderen, "A City Without a Temple." Rev. D. L. Betten will extend the congratulations of the sister Holland church in Brighton

and fraternal greetings will be extended by Rev. J. Van Doorn. Nearly all the addresses will be in the Dutch language. During the services there will be music by the Concordia, a singing society in the church, and solos by C. Van Den Bout and Miss Martha Tempel.

The auditorium of the church will seat between 200 and 300. It has beautiful stained glass windows which are a prominent artistic feature. The auditorium opens into a Sunday school room which will seat about a hundred. The only other room is the pastor's study.

The church has three societies connected with it, the Concordia, which meets weekly; the Holland Mission Society, which holds monthly meetings, and the Young People's Society, which has weekly gatherings. The President of the Concordia is John Remein; director, J. VandenBergh. The President of the Mission Society is J. Balt; Secretary, John Remein. The pastor is at the head of the Young People's Society, which presented the church its new pulpit furniture. The other officers of the society are: Secretary, Miss Nellie Rotier, and Treasurer, Miss Martha Tempel.

The consistory having the building of the church in charge is made up of S. Lefevre, J. Kapelle, W. Kouwe, J. Balt, J. Orlebeke, M. Van Der Bout, A. Pieters, A. Vonhof. The pastor, Rev. Mr. Van Den Heuvel, came here nearly two years ago and succeeded the late Rev. Mr. Remein, who was pastor for a number of years until his death.



Collection bags, made of black velvet and complete with tassel, were used in the Chatham Street church. In the new building it was discovered that the bags would not extend far enough into the new, longer pews, so it was decided to lengthen the handles. (These bags were used until July, 1913, when a change was made to collection plates).

During 1906 the congregation carried on mission activities in the Lincoln Park area of Rochester; also in the neighboring villages of Sodus, N. Y. and East Palmyra, N. Y. In the Lincoln Park section there were some twenty-four families interested and this work was undertaken by Rev. Vanden Heuvel, J. S. Balt and Marinus Vanden Bout.

In July, 1907, Rev. Vanden Heuvel accepted a call to Passaic, N. J.

Between July, 1907, and May, 1909, ten calls were extended but without any success. On July 2, 1909, Rev. Lambertus J. Lamberts was extended a call and the congregation was joyful when the good news arrived that the call was accepted. Rev. Lamberts preached his inaugural sermon on October 19, 1909.

Records reveal that on December 14, 1909, the Rochester congregation was re-incorporated under the name

**"CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF ROCHESTER, N. Y."**

On the same date a thank offering of \$1.00 was received for a Christian School. This was increased by several friends to \$5.00 which was given to Mr. Jacob Mellema, the pioneer for Christian Instruction in Rochester. It was requested that a Society be organized as soon as possible. Records of the Rochester Christian School indicate that the Society for Christian Instruction was organized in May, 1910. The first Board of the new organization was composed of the following individuals:

Rev. L. J. Lamberts, President	John S. Balt, Vice-President
James J. Van Zwoll, Secretary	James J. Orlebeke, Treasurer
Peter VandenBerg, Sr.	

Early activities of the organization centered around the operation of a School during the summer vacation period. Records show that Mr. William Kuipers (later Rev. Kuipers) was the first instructor, teaching from June 20 to August 19, 1910. School was held in Brighton District School #10 and was open four hours daily, except Saturdays. Tuition rates were as follows:

one child	15 cents per week
two children	25 cents per week
three or more children	30 cents per week



THE CONSISTORY (ABOUT 1912)

Sitting: J. Mellema, J. J. Orlebeke, Rev. L. J. Lamberts, J. S. Balt, H. Kalsbeek  
 Standing: P. VandenBerg, Sr., C. Muller, A. Pieters, C. Rotmans.

During 1910 the congregation became financially able to support its own pastor and subsidy from Classis was discontinued. Also, evening services were started, in the English language.

After serving the congregation for a little more than four years, Rev. Lamberts, in January 1914, accepted a call to East Saugatuck, Michigan.

Following three unsuccessful attempts to obtain another pastor, a call was extended to candidate Herman Bel, who spent three weeks in our midst during June, 1914. Mr. Bel accepted our call and installation took place on October 13, 1914.

The first Christian School building, in Marion Street, was purchased in 1915 for the sum of \$1,800.

Considerable missionary activity was undertaken during the year 1916. It was decided to begin mission work in Brighton by means of conducting evangelistic services on Sunday evenings. Family visiting, gospel songs, Sunday School classes and tract distribution were included in this program. The Home Mission Board advised the congregation that candidate Jan Karel Van Baalen had been appointed to perform mission work in Brighton,



for a period of three months. At the same time a Sunday School was started in Brighton under the leadership of Mr. J. J. Van Zwohl.

In May, 1917, candidate John C. De Korne, enroute to Englewood, N. J., visited Rochester and gave a lecture on missions.

The Society for Christian Instruction opened its building as a School in September, 1917. The teachers were Benjamin H. Spalink and Miss Hilda Kuiper, both of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Mr. Spalink is now a minister in the Christian Reformed Church and Miss Kuiper is the present Mrs. Spalink. It is interesting to recall that this romance had its start in Rochester.

The fortieth anniversary of the Rochester congregation was celebrated in September, 1917. The Reverends Bel, Lamberts and Cornelius Maring (of the East Palmyra, N. Y. Church) participated in this event.

Rev. H. Bel received a call from the Detroit, Michigan, Church during December, 1917. This call was accepted and Rev. Bel left Rochester early in 1918.

A call was extended to Rev. John J. Hiemenga in January, 1918. The call was on the basis of a stipulated salary for his pastoral activities with guaranteed additional salary if mission work was conducted in Brighton. Rev. Hiemenga advised the congregation that he would labor in our midst.

The School Board and Society were dealt a staggering blow when, in the early morning hours of January 12, 1918, fire broke out in the school building and it was totally destroyed. The present school building on Jersey Street was purchased the following month and within five weeks the School was again in operation.



ROCHESTER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (TODAY)

The first class was graduated on July 9, 1918, and consisted of seven boys and one girl. The diplomas were signed by John S. Balt as President, Dirk Heuseveldt as Secretary, and Benjamin H. Spalink as Principal.

During August, 1918, Elder J. S. Balt was examined by Classis Hudson and accepted into the ministry. The congregation was informed that Mr. Balt would serve the near-by congregation of East Palmyra, N. Y., as its pastor.

By action of the City authorities and the Rochester Board of Health, the Church was closed for a period of three weeks, during October, 1918, because of the widespread epidemic of influenza. Arrangements were completed to conduct reading services in the homes of some of the members.

The Rev. Lee S. Huizenga visited Rochester and conducted services for the congregation on January 19, 1919.

Our pastor, Rev. J. J. Hiemenga, received and accepted an appointment to the Presidency of Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan. Farewell services were conducted on Sunday, August 17, 1919. The morning sermon was based on Acts 20:32 while the text for the afternoon sermon was Colossians 3:14.

During the several months of our vacancy, six calls were extended to various ministers, but without success. Student Edward B. Pekelder was engaged to conduct our services during the holiday season of 1919-1920. We were also privileged to have him conduct services for a period of eight weeks during the summer of 1920.

In June, 1920, a call was extended to Rev. Peter Yff and the congregation rejoiced when the information was received that the call had been accepted. Rev. Yff was installed on September 12, 1920.

The regularly conducted Sunday evening mission meetings in Brighton were discontinued during October, 1920. However, these meetings were started again in May, 1922, being held in the School building.

The Consistory decided in January, 1922, that, in the future, all minutes of Consistory meetings would be recorded in the English language, instead of in the Holland language, as heretofore.

In February, 1922, the congregation was informed that smoking on the Church premises was prohibited, by order of the Board of Insurance Underwriters.

Miss Johanna Veenstra visited Rochester in May, 1922, and addressed the congregation on behalf of her mission activities in Africa.

Our pastor, Rev. P. Yff, was granted a leave of absence for

approximately three months, due to ill health. During his absence from Rochester, candidate Gerrit A. Lyzenga occupied the pulpit and conducted our services.

Rev. Yff received a call from the congregation at Lodi, N. J. and accepted same in August, 1923.

The congregation was without the services of a pastor during the following nine months although five calls had been extended, but without success. On March 18, 1924, a call was sent to Rev. Aletinus J. Rus and the congregation rejoiced in the news of his acceptance. Installation of Rev. Rus as pastor of the Rochester Church took place on May 25, 1924.



THE CONSISTORY - 1924

Sitting: Wm. J. Kouwe, Rev. A. J. Rus, M. J. Remein. Standing: M. Hylkema, J. VandenBergh, D. Heuseveldt, C. J. Bult, J. Versprille, C. Muller, J. W. Schumacher, H. Schoonhagen.

Continued growth of the congregation and the eastward transition of the majority of our membership made it necessary, once again, to consider the need for a larger building, on a new site. To that end, the congregation decided, in June, 1924, to purchase several lots located on Merchants Road and Mildorf Street. At the same time, a decision was made to offer the present Church property for sale but not to erect a new building until the sale had been completed. In April, 1925, this decision was altered so

that a new parsonage would be built on the Merchants Road property. The contract for this building program was awarded to Mr. Jacob VandenBergh, a member of the local congregation. Rev. Rus and family were the first occupants of the newly erected parsonage, which still functions in that capacity at the present time.

In the summer of 1927, it was decided to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the organizing of the Rochester congregation. This event was scheduled for September 13, 1927. An invitation was extended to Rev. J. S. Balt and the East Palmyra, N. Y. congregation to participate in this commemoration. A copy of the program on that occasion follows:

1877	EBEN-HAEZER	1927
SEMI-CENTENNIAL		
of the		
CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH		
Rochester, New York		
Tuesday, September 13, 1927, 7:30 P.M.		
<hr/>		
Songs—Ps. No. 134 . . . . .		Congregation
Ps. 103:1		
“For Fifty Years”		
Invocation and Remarks . . . . .		The Pastor
Harmony Chorus		
Historical Sketch . . . . .		John Remein
Quartette		
Toespraak . . . . .		Rev. J. Balt
Harmony Chorus		
Greetings from . . . . .	Rev. L. J. Lamberts, Rev. H. Bel, Rev. J. Hiemenga	
Quartette		
Song—“A Song of Joy” . . . . .		Audience
Offering		

#### REFRESHMENTS

Closing

In February, 1930, the congregation again became vacant when Rev. Rus received, and accepted, a call from the Church at Byron Center, Michigan.

The congregation was unsuccessful in two attempts, but a third

call was extended to Rev. Henry J. Triezenberg, in May, 1930. This call was accepted and Rev. Triezenberg, with his family, moved to Rochester, becoming our tenth pastor.

The use of the individual cup system in administering the sacrament of Holy Communion was started in October, 1930.

The congregation, in September, 1931, was again privileged to hear an address by Miss Johanna Veenstra, missionary to Africa. At the same time, Rev. E. A. Smith, also a missionary to Africa, occupied our pulpit.

The Diamond Jubilee of the Christian Reformed denomination was commemorated in Rochester with a special service on April 8, 1932. That same month sixteen young people of the congregation made public profession of Faith.

In April, 1933, it was decided to change the Sunday evening services to a regular formal service, preceded by the customary song service. In October of the same year, preaching by the pastor at the Sunday afternoon Dutch service was discontinued. Instead, an Elder would conduct the service and read a sermon.

On November 13, 1933, the mortgage on the Merchants Road property was discharged.

Records for the year 1934 reveal the following items of general interest:

(a) In January Rev. Triezenberg was appointed a Classical delegate to Synod. Arrangements were completed so that Rev. John O. Schuring, a son of the congregation, would conduct our services for a period of five weeks, during the pastor's absence.

(b) The Sacrament of Holy Communion, in the future, will be administered at the morning and evening services. This decision was made in February.

(c) The first Church bulletin was issued to the congregation on July 30.

(d) Discontinuance of Sunday formal Church services in the Holland language became effective in October.

The thirtieth anniversary of the occupancy of our Church building on North Goodman Street was commemorated on Sunday, January 19, 1936, with an appropriate sermon by Rev. Triezenberg, based on Psalm 48, verses 8 and 9.

Beginning in June, 1937, plans were formulated for the celebration of our sixtieth anniversary, on September 13, 1937. It was decided that pictures of all the pastors who served the Rochester congregation should be made. These pictures are to be framed for permanent display.



THE CONSISTORY - 1938

Sitting: C. Steensma, Rev. H. J. Triezenberg, C. J. Bult. Standing: N. Bruinsma, J. Zietse, T. VanHall, H. Schoonhagen, P. VandenBergh.

The congregation celebrated its sixtieth anniversary on the scheduled date. The program for this occasion follows:

Meeting in charge of Pastor

Brief remarks by former Pastors

Singing by Amphion Singers - under direction of C. M. Maquelin

Historical Sketch - John Remein

Refreshments - served by Young Ladies' Society

According to the records, former pastors Rev. H. Bel and Rev. A. J. Rus conducted services and preached for us on Sunday, September 12. The Reverends L. J. Lamberts, J. J. Hiemenga, J. S. Balt (pastor of the Hamilton, Ontario, Christian Reformed Church) and Richard Rienstra (pastor of the East Palmyra, N. Y. Church) spoke briefly at the anniversary program on September 13. In connection with the refreshments, it is interesting to note that the ice cream served on this occasion was obtained from a manufacturer who occupied the building on Chatham Street which served our congregation as its first Church structure.

A special privilege was accorded the congregation on October 31, 1937 when Dr. J. H. Bavink, of The Netherlands, occupied our pulpit and preached for us.

An unusual event took place on February 25, 1938 when the Rochester congregation tendered a testimonial dinner to Rev. and Mrs. Henry J. Triezenberg, in the banquet hall of the First Reformed Church. Notwithstanding the elaborate preparations and the large group involved, the entire event was a complete surprise to Rev. Triezenberg. A special printed booklet was distributed to all, in commemoration of this enjoyable occasion. A list of the sponsoring organizations and the program for the evening follows:

#### PROGRAM

Opening Remarks

John Remein, Master of Ceremonies

Group Singing

Harry J. M. Remein, Directing

Prayer

Rev. Henry C. Bode

#### DINNER

Group Singing

Prayer

Louis J. Bolt

Testimonial Address

Dirk Heuseveldt

Solo

Hubert Schoonhagen, Jr.

? ? ? (by special request)

Recitation

Gertrude Schuring

Greetings from East Palmyra, N. Y.

Rev. Richard Rienstra

Amateur Hour

Closing Song

#### SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

Sundayschool "Ebenezer," Mission Sundayschool, Ladies' Aid Society, "Tryphena," Young Ladies' Society "Willing Workers," Mission Circle, Men's Society, "Unity," Young Men's Society, "Ora et Labora," Amphion Singers, Society for Christian Instruction, R. C. S. Circle, R. C. S. Alumni Association.

A meeting of the general membership of the congregation was held on April 5, 1938, for the purpose of creating renewed interest in our Building Fund program. A total of \$2,400 was subscribed, to be paid during the current year.



After serving the Rochester congregation for approximately eight years, Rev. Triezenberg accepted a call, on May 9, 1938, to the Church at Rock Valley, Iowa. He preached his farewell message on July 3, 1938.

Shortly after Rev. Triezenberg left us, and while we were yet without a pastor, the congregation passed through one of the most difficult experiences in its history. In connection with the calling of a new minister, several members could not see eye to eye with the Consistory. The difficulty revolved around the issue of loyalty to the local congregation and the maintaining of sound Church Government, according to Reformed Church polity. On January 17, 1939, the group asked for a peaceful separation, which was denied. Accordingly, the matter was referred to Classis Hudson for action. After this situation had been investigated, in loco, by several Classical Committees, the actions of the Consistory were upheld. (This later became known as the Rochester Case).

Upon Classical advice, the Consistory was enlarged from eight to ten members. At the same time the Rev. S. A. Dykstra was appointed as Stated Supply by Classis Hudson, to serve us for an indefinite time.

On March 28, 1939, a mass resignation was received from forty-five families of the dissenting group. However, sixty-five families remained loyal to the local Church and continued in the Faith of our Fathers.

After an unsuccessful attempt to fill our vacancy, a call was extended to Dr. Oren Holtrop of Cleveland, Ohio, East side. The congregation rejoiced with the good news of his acceptance of our call. Dr. Holtrop began his labors in our midst in July, 1939.

In July, 1940, our pastor conducted a summer Bible School, the first such undertaking in our congregation.

The re-organized Building Fund Committee, in October, 1941, proposed a five-year fund-raising plan. This proposal was endorsed by the congregation in January, 1942. At the same time, the congregation decided to liquidate the balance of the mortgage (\$2,337.50) on the North Goodman Street property. The Building Fund Committee assumed this mortgage and a saving of \$537.50 was effected. On December 2, 1946, Church Treasurer Raymond DeJager reported that the mortgage, held by the Building Fund Committee, on our Goodman Street Church building, had been liquidated.



(February 22, 1946)

Members of the Christian Reformed Church, North Goodman Street and Ferndale Crescent, last night burned the mortgage on the old church property and at the same time laid plans for a new church building, at a banquet in Parsells Avenue Baptist Church.

The Rev. Oren Holtrop, pastor, said the church has a building fund of more than \$20,000 and efforts

will be made to increase this sum to permit building at Browncroft Boulevard and Newcastle Road when materials are available.

The Rev. Mr. Holtrop said the congregation of 302 had contributed the sum in the building fund over a period of four years and at the same time set money aside to pay off the mortgage. The yearly budget for operating expenses is approximately \$8,000.

For quite some time the congregation was keenly aware of the need for a larger Church building. It was the general opinion that the lots on Merchants Road were inadequate for our future building program. Accordingly, the Consistory in November, 1944, was authorized to purchase a new site located on Browncroft Boulevard, at Newcastle and Corwin Roads. (These lots were purchased in January, 1946).

In December, 1945, the Goodman Street Church and parsonage were offered for sale, at a price subject to the approval of the congregation. In May, 1946, the parsonage only, was sold as a separate unit.

Under the leadership of Dr. Holtrop, a local mission fund Committee was organized and its first meeting was held on May 26, 1947.

After serving our congregation very acceptably for approximately eight years, Dr. Holtrop received a call from the Prospect Park Church of Paterson, N. J. Our pastor, after due consideration, came to the decision that the Lord called him to serve in this new field.

A call was extended to Rev. Anthony E. Rozendal of Ada, Michigan. Before leaving Rochester, Dr. Holtrop was happy to inform the congregation that Rev. Rozendal had accepted our call.

It was a sad occasion for the congregation when, on October 23, 1947, Dr. Holtrop preached his farewell sermon, based on John's Gospel, chapter 3:30 "He must increase but I must decrease." At the close of the service, the Vice-President of the Consistory, Mr. Charles Steensma, in a few well-chosen words, expressed sincere appreciation for his faithful labors in our midst and wished Dr. Holtrop the Lord's blessing in his new field of labor. Dr. Holtrop was presented with a sizeable purse, in the name of the Consistory and the entire congregation. (During this service six of our young people made public profession of Faith).

Rev. Rozendal and family arrived in Rochester on January 6, 1948, and were welcomed by the Consistory and their wives the same evening. The reception was held in the assembly room of the Rochester Christian School and an excellent dinner, prepared by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lewen, was thoroughly enjoyed. The next evening, January 7, the congregation assembled in the Church auditorium to welcome our new pastor and his family. A program had been prepared for the occasion in which all the Church Societies participated. Following the program, an opportunity was extended to all to meet Rev. and Mrs. Rozendal, and their son Freddie. Light refreshments were served by the Young Men's and Young Ladies' Societies.

On Thursday evening, January 8, the installation services were conducted. Rev. Andrew Baker, Counselor, of the East Palmyra Church, read the form of installation and charged our new pastor, basing his remarks on Paul's letter to Titus, chapter 2, verse 15. Our former pastor, Dr. Oren Holtrop, in charging the congregation, selected Matthew 10:41 for his text. Dr. Holtrop admonished us with six PR's — to PRay, PProvide, PProtect, PProsper, PPrepare and apPReciate our pastor. The service was concluded with the singing of Psalter Hymn #406 and benediction by our new pastor.

A son of the congregation, Rev. J. O. Schuring, conducted a farewell service on January 21, 1949, prior to his departure, with his family, to the mission field at Colombo, Ceylon. As a token of appreciation, he was presented with photographic equipment which he could use in his new field of labor.

On March 24, 1949, a mass meeting was held in a large local Church building in behalf of the Back To God Hour, the radio program sponsored by the Christian Reformed Church. On this occasion the Rev. Peter Eldersveld addressed the meeting, and the Calvin College Radio Choir rendered several selections.

As the congregation was about to undertake a Church building project, the Consistory, on March 21, 1949, appointed a Planning Committee whose duties were to prepare tentative plans and obtain basic information in connection with this program. Mr. Nicholas Bruinsma was designated as Chairman of this Committee.

In July, 1949, the congregation was privileged to have with us the Rev. A. H. Selles; and in October, 1949, Miss Wilhelmina Kalsbeek and Ruby Lu visited us. They all addressed us in regard to our denominational mission activities in the China field.

On October 24, 1949, the Planning and Building Fund Committees recommended to the Consistory that we erect our new Church edifice in 1952, at an approximate cost of \$80,000. This

recommendation was accepted by the Consistory and approved by the congregation on December 5, 1949. The Consistory suggested that, if possible, this building program be started during 1951. However, at a congregational meeting held on October 30, 1950, it was decided to start building at once. A Gothic type architecture was selected. On this same date the congregation accepted a purchase offer of \$9,300 from the Volunteers of America for the Church building now occupied. Arrangements were made with this organization to occupy the building until the new Church was completed.

By action of the Consistory, the Planning Committee was discontinued and a Building Committee was appointed, on January 31, 1950. Mr. N. Bruinsma continued as Chairman of this new Committee.

During the early part of 1950, the Consistory authorized a survey to be made to determine the possibilities of local mission work, in connection with the Mission Sunday School on Jersey Street. Based on this survey, it was decided to engage an ordained full-time worker but, upon the recommendation of Rev. John M. Vande Kieft, denominational Home Missionary at large, this program was postponed until we had moved to our new location.

On June 1, 1951, the Consistory decided to publish a booklet featuring the dedication of the new Church building the latter part of 1951, and commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the organization of the Rochester congregation, in September 1952.

The first Consistory meeting in the new Church building was held on November 12, 1951.

The final services in our North Goodman Street Church building were held on Sunday, November 25, 1951. In the evening service, Rev. Rozendal preached on "The Abiding Word in a Changing World" from Hebrews 13:7 and 8, taking especial note of this very significant occasion.

The new building was formally dedicated on November 30, 1951. A copy of the program is included with this booklet.

The first Sunday services were conducted on December 2, 1951. The morning sermon by our pastor was based on Psalm 96:8 and 9 — "Acceptable Worship in the House of God." The evening sermon by Rev. Rozendal was titled "The Christian's Prayer, Thy Will Be Done," based on Romans 12:2 and Lord's Day 49 of the Heidelberg Catechism.

An informal program and social hour, in connection with the dedication of the new Church building, was held on December 6, 1951. A splendid program was rendered by various organizations

of the Church, and a wonderful evening of Christian fellowship was enjoyed by the congregation.

On March 25, 1952, another "Back to God" rally was held in Rochester, featuring the radio pastor, Rev. Peter Eldersveld, and the radio choir, under the directorship of James J. De Jonge.

Official dedication of the new organ took place on Friday, April 4, 1952, with Dr. George Henry Day at the console.

Rev. Arnold Brink, Educational Secretary of Calvin College and Seminary, visited Rochester and gave an illustrated talk about Life at Calvin, on April 29, 1952.

On Sunday afternoon, May 18, 1952, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Holkeboer, denominational missionaries to Africa, rendered a very interesting and informative lecture on their activities in that field. The meeting was very well attended.

The entire program for the building of our new Church edifice was enacted by the congregation, under the leadership of our pastor, Rev. Anthony E. Rozendal. During recent months Rev. Rozendal received several calls to minister in other fields. On Sunday, June 29, 1952, our pastor informed the congregation that he had accepted the call to the First Christian Reformed Church at Zeeland, Michigan.

. On Sunday, August 17, 1952, Rev. A. E. Rozendal preached his farewell message to the Rochester congregation. The sermon was based on I Corinthians 3:10(a) "The Wise Master Builder."

Rev. Rozendal and family left Rochester on August 18, 1952, for his new charge at Zeeland, Michigan.



# Organizations

## THE CONSISTORY

President	The Pastor
Vice-President	F. Steensma
Clerk	C. W. DeJager
Church Treasurer	H. J. Frelier
Elders: P. Bruinsma, C. W. DeJager, H. Schouten, A. Spyker, F. Steensma	
Deacons: H. J. Frelier, Wm. T. Mead, B. Nordseth, G. Vonhof	

## ORGANIZATIONS

Ladies' Aid Society "Tryphena" - Mrs. T. Chambery, President
Men's Society "Unity" - The Pastor, President
Women's Christian Fellowship Circle - Mrs. P. Versprille, President
Mission Circle - Mrs. L. M. Bolt, President
Young Ladies' Society "King's Daughters" - Mrs. B. Bruinsma, President
Young Men's Society "Ora et Labora" - B. Bruinsma, President
Harmony Chorus - P. M. Dys, President; H. H. Broene, Director
Girls' Chorus - Miss Alma Roberts, President; Mrs. J. Steensma, Director
Sunday School "Ebenezer" - J. Kouwe, Superintendent
Teachers: Mrs. A. Beenhouwer, Mrs. A. Bult, Jr., P. M. Dys, Mrs. W. Fronier, R. Johnville, Mrs. J. Kouwe, G. Stam, N. Tanis, Mrs. P. Versprille
Jersey St. Sunday School - C. W. DeJager, Superintendent
Teachers: Mrs. L. M. Bolt, Mrs. C. W. DeJager, Mrs. F. McGovern, Mrs. M. Smidt, Mrs. A. Spyker

## CHURCH COMMITTEES

Building Committee	N. Bruinsma, Chairman
Building Fund Committee	P. Bruinsma, Chairman
Local Mission Committee	The Pastor, Chairman
Maintenance Committee	R. DeJager J. Johnville G. Vonhof
In Charge of Ushers	Wm. Vonhof



#### LADIES' AID SOCIETY "TRYPHENA"

Sitting: Mrs. M. Hylkema, Mrs. Wm. DeJong, Mrs. A. E. Rozendal, Mrs. T. Chambery, Mrs. A. Bult, Mrs. Wm. T. Mead, Mrs. A. Vonhof, Mrs. L. M. Bolt.  
 Standing: Mrs. R. D. Arnold, Mrs. P. W. VanHarken, Mrs. J. DeJong, Mrs. F. Steensma, Mrs. H. J. Frelief, Mrs. S. DeVries, Mrs. P. DeVries, Mrs. H. DeVries, Mrs. J. VanderWalle.



#### MEN'S SOCIETY "UNITY"

First row: C. Eckert, N. Bruinsma, Rev. A. E. Rozendal, P. M. Dys, A. Spyker.  
 Second row: J. W. Kuipers, L. F. Roberts, C. J. Bult, L. M. Bolt.  
 Third row: T. Chambery, H. DeJager, A. Vonhof, Jr., H. DeVries.



#### WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CIRCLE

First row: Mrs. L. F. Roberts, Mrs. R. Lewen, Mrs. J. W. Kuipers, Mrs. P. Versprille, Mrs. P. Bruinsma, Mrs. C. Eckert. Second row: Mrs. T. Chambery, Mrs. Wm. Vonhof, Mrs. P. M. Dys, Mrs. C. W. DeJager, Mrs. F. Steensma, Mrs. A. Spyker, Mrs. E. Morel. Third row: Mrs. J. M. Steensma, Mrs. G. Vonhof, Mrs. R. M. DeJager.



#### MISSION CIRCLE

Sitting: Mrs. A. Vonhof, Mrs. P. Bott, Mrs. L. M. Bolt, Mrs. A. Spyker, Mrs. Wm. DeJong. Standing: Mrs. L. F. Roberts, Mrs. J. Bott, Mrs. C. W. DeJager, Mrs. D. J. DeBlik, Mrs. T. Chambery, Mrs. P. DeVries, Mrs. L. Ward, Mrs. J. Johnville.





HARMONY CHORUS





SUNDAY SCHOOL "EBENEZER"



#### YOUNG LADIES' SOCIETY "KING'S DAUGHTERS" AND GIRLS' CHORUS

First row: Tina Boon, Nancy Orlebeke, Donna Stam, Carol Bolt, Barbara Steensma, Alma Roberts. Second row: Arlene Bruinsma, Joyce Frelief, Mrs. B. Bruinsma, Mrs. J. M. Steensma, Christine Monje, Elizabeth Mead. Third row: JoAnne Bruinsma, Leonora Boon, Joan Vonhof, Ruth Dawson, Judith Beenhouwer.



#### YOUNG MEN'S SOCIETY "ORA ET LABORA"

Sitting: Gerald Vanderstouw, Barney Bruinsma, Robert Johnville, Robert Dawson  
 Standing: John DeJager, Peter DeVries, Stephen Vonhof, George Vonhof, Arnold DeVries.



#### **BUILDING COMMITTEE**

**Sitting:** L. M. Bolt, N. Bruinsma, G. Stam, W. J. Almekinder

**Standing:** T. Chambery, L. F. Roberts, H. DeJager.

(not shown in picture) J. A. Leys,

H. Vonhof (deceased)



#### **BUILDING FUND COMMITTEE**

**Sitting:** R. Johnville, P.  
Bruinsma, H. DeJager

**Standing:** Wm. Vonhof,  
F. McGovern.



# LOCAL MISSION COMMITTEE

Sitting: C. J. Bult, Mrs.  
C. W. DeJager, Rev. A.  
E. Rozendal. Standing:  
C. W. DeJager, H. H.  
Broene.



JERSEY STREET SUNDAY SCHOOL



SIDE VIEW OF CHURCH

## *The Building of our New House of Worship*

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Toward the end of the year 1949, our congregation, worshipping at North Goodman Street and Ferndale Crescent, made the great and memorable decision to erect a new house of worship. This new place of worship was to be erected at the corner of Browncroft Boulevard and Newcastle Road and to occupy two of the four City lots purchased a few years before for this very purpose.

About ten years ago the congregation launched an active building fund program with the idea of making it a five-year plan and endeavoring to accumulate about \$50,000, which was thought at that time to be sufficient to build a suitable new house of worship.

During these years prices skyrocketed, so that at the end of five years it was impossible to build a new Church due to the great increase in cost of materials and labor.

After a few years the matter of starting to build our new Church was again the topic of much discussion, so that in the fall of 1949, it was decided to have a congregational meeting. A Committee was appointed to present the facts and the ways and means of raising enough funds so that it would be possible to start this great project. At this meeting the Committee advised the congregation that if they desired to build, it would be necessary that the members pledge \$10,000 a year for the next three years. Pledge cards were given to all members and when tabulated the mark of \$10,000 a year was subscribed and our building project was thereby authorized. The Consistory immediately set the wheels in motion so that this program could go forth.

In January 1950, the Consistory appointed a Building Committee and the following members were selected: Willis J. Almekinder, Louis M. Bolt, Nicholas Bruinsma, Thomas Chambery, Howard DeJager, John A. Leys, Louis F. Roberts, Garrett Stam and Harry Vohnhof. Nicholas Bruinsma was appointed Chairman



LAYING OF CORNERSTONE - JULY 4, 1951



INTERIOR VIEW OF CHURCH



of the Committee by the Consistory and the following officers were elected at the first Building Committee meeting held on February 14, 1950: Harry Vonhof - Vice President; Willis J. Almekinder - Treasurer; Louis M. Bolt - Secretary.

Various problems confronted the Building Committee. The main and important one was the type of structure to be built. Should it be of colonial or gothic design? After considerable discussion and investigation as to cost, etc., it was decided to lay the matter before the congregation. At the appointed time a meeting was held and all the facts brought out. This included showing pictures of these two types of structure. The congregation voted in favor of building a gothic type church, notwithstanding that this type would be more costly to build.

The matter of an architect for our new building was of great importance; and after due thought, Mr. William Clark, a licensed engineer, was appointed to undertake this important work. Mr. Clark has had a great many years of practical experience in architectural work and was highly recommended on the basis of other projects that he had designed.

In the month of December 1950, the project was launched by having the cellar dug. From this point on, there was no stopping as we were now in full swing, hampered only by the elements. Brief ground-breaking ceremonies were held on December 12, 1950.

As previously stated the plans called for a Church building of gothic design. The following details might be of interest: The Main Auditorium is forty-five feet wide by ninety-six feet long, and thirty-four feet high, with a wing off the west side of the church at the end of the building, which is used for various meeting rooms. The auditorium has hand hewn open beams which are finished off in a light and natural shade. All paneling is of natural light shade to which the pews and pulpit furniture are matched. The ceiling tile is an off-white color and the plastered walls a light buff color, which blend in well together. The bronzed lanterns used to light the auditorium greatly add to its beauty and design. The aisles and the platform are carpeted with a beautiful greenish blue carpet. The chancel has a large arch. Small built-in arches in the background are decorated with appropriate paintings. Other built-in arches at each side of the pulpit round out the effect and make a well balanced setting.

The basement is completely finished with a large auditorium and several meeting rooms, plus a large sized kitchen.

The exterior is of brick veneer with a stone arched front entrance, stone arched window frames, and amber glass windows.



A tower graces the Church at the wing entrance. The Church roof is of slate, variegated in color, size, and thickness. The grounds are very spacious and well shrubbed, surrounded by a number of large beautiful trees.

On July 4, 1951, the cornerstone of the Church was laid by our pastor, Rev. A. E. Rozendal. A good representation of the congregation witnessed the ceremonies on this great occasion.

The ceremonies were opened with the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "The Church's One Foundation." Scripture reading was from Ephesians 2:18-22 and I Peter 2:1-9. The pastor gave a brief, appropriate talk. The Clerk of the Consistory, Mr. Fred Steensma, listed the contents of a metal box which was placed in the cornerstone. These contents included:

- (a) copy of the current Church Directory
- (b) several Church bulletins containing information about the building program
- (c) roll of film containing excerpts from Church Year Books and Consistory minutes outlining decisions pertaining to the building project
- (d) statement, signed by all the Consistory members, expressing our thanks unto the Lord for His manifold blessings
- (e) copy of our Church Creed and Liturgy, on microfilm

Rev. Rozendal, with the assistance of Mr. N. Bruinsma, Chairman of the Building Committee, laid the cornerstone in place. The ceremonies were closed with thanksgiving to God by the pastor and the singing of the Doxology by the assembled congregation.

A word of thanks and praise is to be said to a goodly number who gave of their time in volunteer labor. Some worked several nights each week and every Saturday for the entire eleven months our Church was under construction. Also, without the faithful fulfillment of pledges to this project, it would have been impossible for us to have completed this great undertaking.



OUR ORGANISTS

Our new House of Worship, a Monument built to the Glory of God, was completed on Nov. 29, 1951, and dedication services were held on the evening of November 30. The auditorium was filled to capacity. The pastor, Rev. Rozendal, had a very stirring message, based on Genesis 28:17, "This is none other but the house of God." The members of the congregation were requested to arise and respond to the reading by the pastor. Thus, the Church was dedicated to the Service and Glory of God.



One great sorrow was cast upon our congregation by the death of the Vice-President of the Building Committee, Mr. Harry Vonhof, who worked most of his spare time in volunteer labor. He was a valuable asset in our building program as he was a skilled heating engineer and also familiar with general building construction. On January 20, 1952, on a Sunday morning, he attended church as usual; almost immediately after the service he was stricken with a heart attack and was rushed to the hospital. On the evening of the same day the Lord saw fit to call him home to his eternal reward.



Early in the planning for our new Church, the Consistory appointed a Committee to have charge of the selection and purchase of an organ. This Committee spent a considerable time in investigation and study. Because of our limited funds and the delays and difficulties involved in obtaining a new organ, the Organ Committee recommended the purchase of an Aeolian pipe organ which was located in the old Alling residence at 901 East Avenue, Rochester. This organ was moved and rebuilt by the Parsons Organ Company of Rochester. Additional pipes were installed to supplement the Alling organ to give a very fine two manual instrument with 24 ranks of pipes. In the spring of 1952, the installation of the organ was completed and a dedication service was held on April 4, 1952. The members of the Organ Committee were: Mrs. John Steensma, Mrs. Gordon VanderStouw, Herman H. Broene, and John W. Kuipers, Committee Chairman. Mrs. Steensma and Mrs. VanderStouw have given many years of faithful service as our church organists.

# Members of the Consistory



The following members have served in the Consistory for one or more terms.

## ELDERS

H. De Jongh	J. Jongsma	A. Vonhof, Sr.
H. J. Piek	J. J. Orlebeke	Rev. H. C. Bode
J. De Witte	H. Kalsbeek	P. Vanden Bergh
A. Jansen	J. Verwest	J. Schumacher
K. Wiersma	A. Bruinsma	D. De Blik
C. Boeyink	C. Muller	L. M. Bolt
M. Van Dussen	J. J. DeVisser	T. Chambery
S. Balt	J. Remein	N. Bruinsma
J. Mellema	J. Versprille	J. Leys
S. Lefevre	N. Bowman	S. De Vries
C. Rotmans	C. J. Bult	H. Schouten
W. Kouwe, Sr.	A. Schuring	J. W. Kuipers
W. Offringa	D. Heuseveldt	F. Steensma
J. De Wolf	J. Vanden Bergh	P. Bruinsma
J. Kapelle	R. Kuipers	A. Spyker
J. S. Balt	C. Steensma	C. W. DeJager
	P. De Vries	

## DEACONS

A. Van Wyckhuysen	C. De Jager	N. Bruinsma
J. H. Zonneville	P. Vanden Berg, Sr.	F. Steensma
A. Jansen	C. Muller	J. Zietse
C. Boeyink	J. Vanden Bergh	L. M. Bolt
J. De Mallie	P. Rozendaal	D. De Blik
T. E. Bosje	D. Heuseveldt	P. J. Zietse
J. Vonhof	H. Folkens	T. Chambery
J. De Wolf	R. Kuipers	T. Van Hall
M. Zonneville	J. Maquelin	R. Stam
C. Rotmans	J. W. Schumacher	J. W. Kuipers
W. Kouwe, Sr.	P. Vanden Bergh	A. Beenhouwer
J. Kapelle	J. Frelie	P. Bruinsma
J. Verwest	F. Minnema	M. J. Orlebeke
P. DeJager	I. Vande Mar	H. Frelie
J. S. Balt	J. Vogel	Wm. Vonhof
J. J. Orlebeke	Wm. J. Kouwe	R. DeJager
J. J. De Visser	M. Hylkema	G. Stam
J. De Bert	M. J. Remein	G. Kuipers
A. Vonhof, Sr.	H. Schoonhagen	L. F. Roberts
M. Vanden Bout	J. A. Leys	G. Vonhof
J. Jongsma	P. Havert	H. H. Broene
J. Vander Stouw	C. Van Kalsbeek	Wm. T. Mead
A. Pieters	A. Bult	B. Nordseth
	P. J. Hubert	

## *Church Statistics*

The following general statistics reflect the membership status of the Rochester congregation from 1881 to the present time.

YEAR	FAMILIES	CONFESSING MEMBERS	SOULS
1881	16	30	69
1882	18	35	89
1883	20	39	97
1884	22	43	108
1885	-	-	-
1886	50	80	250
1887	60	86	275
1888	62	94	310
1889	60	110	300
1890	60	115	300
1891	60	115	300
1892	60	115	300
1893	60	150	300
1894	67	120	277
1895	70	133	278
1896	71	136	276
1897	72	143	284
1898	50	136	234
1899	56	161	252
1900	47	116	243
1901	47	124	231
1902	47	124	231
1903	47	113	217
1904	42	65	190
1905	42	65	190
1906	52	70	205
1907	57	110	232
1908	62	113	-
1909	45	110	232
1910	45	110	232
1911	54	133	271
1912	65	147	309
1913	66	158	326
1914	-	-	-
1915	70	172	341

# *Church Statistics*

(continued)

YEAR	FAMILIES	CONFESSING MEMBERS	SOULS
1916	80	192	400
1917	75	190	400
1918	79	196	413
1919	75	190	400
1920	80	203	409
1921	80	186	370
1922	80	190	375
1923	80	185	360
1924	85	186	388
1925	85	200	341
1926	85	200	340
1927	85	210	345
1928	89	216	348
1929	89	220	350
1930	89	226	355
1931	90	230	360
1932	103	236	385
1933	105	238	391
1934	103	259	422
1935	96	256	428
1936	100	257	429
1937	110	278	458
1938	111	276	452
1939	111	275	450
1940	73	200	350
1941	71	195	343
1942	70	190	325
1943	70	190	320
1944	69	186	320
1945	69	185	310
1946	69	185	306
1947	69	182	295
1948	63	178	288
1949	70	179	298
1950	75	180	307
1951	75	182	313
1952	72	181	318

# Membership Roll

(as of July 24, 1952)

- Mr. and Mrs. Willis J. Almekinder  
Karen Janna, Stephen Paul  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph D. Arnold  
Douglas Peter, Kenneth John,  
Muriel Ruth  
Miss Mildred Baart  
Mr. and Mrs. Alex Beenhouwer  
Judith Ann, Edward Alan,  
William James  
Mr. and Mrs. John Beenhouwer  
Miss Nellie BeHage  
Mr. and Mrs. Louis M. Bolt  
Florine Joyce, Carol Anita  
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Boon  
Tina Francina, Leonora  
Miss Gertrude Bosscher  
Mrs. John Bott (Anna)  
Mrs. Paul Bott (Kathryn)  
Mr. and Mrs. Herman H. Broene  
Mary Elizabeth  
Mr. Andrew Bruinsma  
Mr. and Mrs. Barney Bruinsma  
Jacquelin May, Luthene Ann,  
Alyce Tena, Bernard Rus  
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Bruinsma  
Norman Glenn, Ralph John,  
Evelyn May, David Calvin  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bruinsma  
Arlene Mae, JoAnne Elizabeth,  
Peter Andrew, Daniel Edward,  
Mark John  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bruinsma  
Walter Martin, Robert Joseph,  
Richard Roy  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bult  
John Frederick, Conrad David,  
Jeanette Ruth  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert John Bult  
Mr. and Mrs. Conrad J. Bult  
Mr. William Bult  
Mrs. Jacob Chambery (Martha,  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Chambery  
Thomas Julian, James Herman  
Mr. William Dawson  
Robert Louis, Ruth Irene  
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel DeBliet  
Mrs. Peter DeGroote (Jessie)  
Mr. and Mrs. Claude DeJager  
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence W. DeJager  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard DeJager  
Roy Alan, Ruth Carol, Grace  
Alberta  
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond M. DeJager  
Ray John, Coreen Janet, Paul David  
Mr. and Mrs. Jacob DeJong  
William Edward, Thomas Jacob  
Mr. and Mrs. William DeJong  
Mr. and Mrs. Harry DeVries  
Peter John  
Mr. and Mrs. Morris DeVries  
Margaret Anne (Mrs. Snyder),  
Arnold George  
Mrs. Peter DeVries (Lolkje)  
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney DeVries  
Donald Junior  
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Dys  
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Dys  
Thelma Theresa, Kenneth Arthur  
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Martin Dys  
Dorothea Rebecca, Phyllis Ann,  
Theodore Phillip  
Miss Charlotte F. Eckert  
Mrs. Charles Eckert (Pauline)  
Linda Susanne, Peggy Lee  
Mrs. H. Emmelkamp (Hinke)  
Miss Eleanor H. Feist  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Frelier  
Kenneth William, June Carol,  
Ronald Arthur, Evelyn Ruth,  
Marilyn Jean, Patricia Barnes,  
Laurence E. Barnes  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold J. Frelier  
Joyce Ann, Donald Allen,  
Sandra Ruth, Gail Eileen  
Mr. and Mrs. John Frelier  
Mrs. Walter Fronier (Doris)  
Mrs. Martin Hylkema (Willemina)  
Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Johnville  
Robert Roy  
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Kouwe  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Krol  
Mr. and Mrs. George A. Kuipers  
William John, George Albertus,  
Christina Ann

# Membership Roll

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Kuipers Emma Louise, Marvin Rus, Margaret Aletta, John William, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. Niel Tanis Marlan Duane, Robert Niel, Lynn Charles
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lamberts	Mr. John W. Tegelaar
Mr. and Mrs. Albert B. Lewen	Mr. Herman J. Temple
Mr. Adrian Leys	Mrs. Jacob Tiersen (Sarah)
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Leys John Adrian	Mr. Jacob P. VandenBergh
Mr. and Mrs. Frank McGovern Irene Terrell	Mr. Herman Vander Stoep
Mr. and Mrs. William Mead Elizabeth Ann, Marcia Rose, William Charles, Janice Ruth	Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Vander Stouw Gerald Gordon, Donald John
Mrs. Elizabeth Morel	Mrs. Jacob Vander Stouw (Gertrude)
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Nordseth Barbara Ann, Carol Jean	Mrs. L. Vander Stouw (Elizabeth)
Mrs. Barbara E. Norris	Mrs. Cornelius Vander Voort (Caroline A. M.)
Mr. and Mrs. James R. Orlebeke Nancy Elizabeth, Glenn Evan	Mr. Sidney Vander Voort
Mrs. Jessie Orlebeke Linda Anne, Allen Paul, Paul Michael	Mr. and Mrs. John Vander Walle John Donald
Mr. and Mrs. Jack R. Otto	Mr. and Mrs. Peter W. Van Harken Herbert Peter, Robert Louis
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Otto Robert Walter, David Lee, Josina Ann, Dorothy Belle, Samuel John	Mrs. Harvey A. Van Hoven (Doris) Douglas Alan, Harvey Addison
Mr. John Remein	Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Van Slooten Jacob, Charles Henry
Mr. and Mrs. Louis F. Roberts Alma Lou, Frank Carl, David Louis, Douglas Hugh	Mr. and Mrs. Adrianus Verbree Lena, Auke, Jacomina Glazina
Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Schouten	Miss Elizabeth Versprille
Mr. and Mrs. Arend Schuring	Mr. Jacob Versprille
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Smidt Nancy Kathleen	Mr. and Mrs. Peter Versprille Sherill Ruth, Jeanne Marie, Mary Lee, Peter Louis
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Spyker David John	Mr. John Verwest
Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Stam, Jr. Garth Ruurd, Garrett John, Donna Ruth, Richard Paul, Alice Magdalene, Ruth Elizabeth, John Peter, George Harold	Mrs. Albert Vonhof (Gertrude)
Miss Martha Stam	Mr. Albert Vonhof, Jr.
Mrs. Charles Steensma (Jennie)	Mr. Donald H. Vonhof
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Steensma Charles Fred, Fred Calvin, James Lewis	Mr. and Mrs. George Vonhof Stephen Paul, George Alan, Judith Priscilla, Gary Lynn, Susan Justine, Mary Gertrude
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Steensma Barbara Ann, Kathleen Gail, John Charles	Mrs. Harry Vonhof (Katie)
	Mr. Roy A. Vonhof Karen Jean, Linda Ruth
	Mr. and Mrs. William Vonhof Paul William, Peggy Eileen, Diane Lynn
	Mrs. Leo Ward (Minnie)
	Mr. Jacob B. Zietse
	Mr. and Mrs. John Zietse

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and the Dedication of its new House of Worship*

*This book is copy No.*





